

## Moscow appeals to miners

MOSCOW (AP) — Premier Mikhail Gorbachev appealed Sunday to striking coal miners in the Soviet Arctic to end a walkout he said endangered winter fuel supplies. Strikers reported the coal industry minister, Mikhail I. Ryshkov, had arrived in the area and said they expect to meet with him Monday. "The situation that has arisen at present in the coal industry, especially on the eve of winter... creates an insupportable situation in ensuring vital supplies for our people, for the work of basic and other sectors of the national economy," Ryshkov said. Workers in the largest mine of the Pechora basin in Komi region went on strike Oct. 25 to protest what they said are government delays in fulfilling promises made to end a national miners' walkout in July. They were joined last week by miners at 10 other mines, leaving only two mines working in the region. Miners say more than 15,000 of them are on strike, and the official media say the strike already has cost millions of rubles in lost production. Workers have advanced political demands including the removal of language in the constitution that makes the Communist Party the leading force in society.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

## Iran says four 'U.S. spies' hanged

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Sunday it hanged four U.S. "spies" on Saturday's 10th anniversary of the seizure of the American embassy in Tehran. The official news agency IRNA named them as Tammam Riyahi, Kiyomoh Hekmat Bakhsh, Ardeshir Ashraf and Ibrahim Mohtaqi. They had been tried by a special military court and convicted of providing valuable secrets to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). IRNA said in a report received in Cyprus. Thousands of Iranians held a "humiliation of the great Satan march" to the former U.S. embassy in central Tehran Saturday to commemorate its seizure by militant students. Fifty-two of the embassy's American staff were held hostage for 444 days — the high point in the confrontation between Iran's radicals and the United States. In April, President Hashemi Rafsanjani, then parliament speaker, announced that a spy ring has been broken and its members arrested in a campaign launched after a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire halted the Iran-Iraq war Aug. 20, 1988. He and other Iranian officials have refused to give the number of those detained.

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## Deputies ratify Arab peace plan; reelect Hussein as speaker; Hoss resigns to make way for new government

## Muawad elected Lebanese president

KLEIAT, Lebanon (Agencies) — Lebanese members of parliament elected a moderate as president of Lebanon Sunday and ratified an Arab peace plan to end 14 years of civil war.

The new president, Rene Muawad, 64, was sworn in immediately, ending an interregnum for more than a year. The election was promptly denounced as illegal by General Michel Aoun, who heads an interim government in the Christian sector.

Parliament assembled at a run-down airbase in Syrian-controlled northern Lebanon after 30 deputies, needed to form a quorum, flew in from Paris.

Muawad, a Maronite Christian on good terms with both Christian and Muslim leaders, has backed Muslim demands for more power in the Christian-dominated political system — a root cause of the war.

The art-loving Muawad, was elected by unanimous vote in a second ballot with a mandate to form a national reconciliation government to end the civil war. Syria was the first foreign country to react to Muawad's election. Its president, Hafez Al Assad,

congratulated Muawad in a telegram sent within an hour after the parliament vote.

An official source in Damascus, quoted Assad as saying: "I am most glad to address to you my hearty congratulations... what was achieved today is a great accomplishment on the way to end Lebanon's long ordeal."

"I pledge to you and to the forthcoming government all our backing and support," the source, who could not be identified, quoted Assad as saying.

In the first ballot, Muawad got 35 votes. Two other parliamentarians running for the top post, George Saadeh and Elias Hrawi, withdrew after the first ballot.

Saadeh, leader of the Falange party, got 16 votes and Hrawi, a businessman received five. One parliamentarian abstained. Muawad needed 49 votes, or two-thirds of parliament's surviving members, to win in the first ballot. A simple majority vote in the second round is sufficient.

Aoun rejected the election. "What happened in Kleiat is an unconstitutional act and is null and void," Aoun said in a statement issued from his command bunker at the presidential palace in Beirut's suburbs of Baabda.

"We are determined to thwart the conspiracy which is being hatched to eliminate what is left of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

His rejection sharpened a split that developed within Christian ranks after parliament approved an Arab League-brokered peace accord in Saudi Arabia last month.

Aoun declared Saturday that he had dissolved parliament as it prepared to meet in Beirut to ratify the peace accord.

Most legislators declared Aoun's move illegal. Under Lebanon's constitution, only the president can dissolve parliament.

Acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, who headed a civilian cabinet that competed for legitimacy with a military government under Aoun for the past 13 months, tendered his resignation to the new president to facilitate appointment of a new premier. "This election is a triumph for

## Jordan welcomes Lebanese election

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem welcomed Sunday's election of Rene Muawad as president of Lebanon and wished him success in restoring peace to his country.

He also hailed the "positive results" of the session of the Lebanese parliament which also re-elected Hussein Hussein as its speaker and ratified an Arab-sponsored plan to end 14 years of civil war.

Qasem, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, "wished Muawad success in serving the Lebanese people and building the country's constitutional institutions to restore Lebanon as a free, sovereign and independent Arab state as it was before the crisis erupted."

He added that the election of Muawad, 64, constituted a major step towards saving Lebanon.

a unified Lebanon and a promise of a better future," Hoss said in a statement broadcast by radio stations.

The historic session got under way at 3:25 p.m. (1325 GMT). The legislators first re-elected House Speaker Hussein Hussein for a one-year term. He has held the post since October 1984.

Then they unanimously ratified the peace accord to end the civil

war that was brokered by the Arab League at a special parliament meeting in Taif, Saudi Arabia, last month.

A suggestion by Saadeh and Deputy Butros Harb that a supplementary document by the Arab League guaranteeing the accord also be voted was overruled. "This will be an inadmissible precedent," Hussein said.



PEACE IN THE HORIZON? — A Lebanese militiaman cradles his small child on the eve of Sunday's presidential election in north Lebanon, raising hopes that an end to the 14 years of civil war is in sight.

## Israel accepts U.S. plan but wants assurances PLO barred

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel accepted Sunday a U.S. formula for Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo. It said Washington met conditions for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) from the negotiations.

After nearly three hours of discussions, the inner cabinet voted 9-3 to accept U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's revised five-point proposal and to demand a list of assurances to accompany it.

"We have decided two things — to accept the five points and secondly, according to the proposal, to ask for side assurances," Vice-Premier Shimon Peres told reporters.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said Baker, who put forward his formula in October to break a deadlock over Israel's plan for Palestinian elections, was ready "in principle" to give Israel the requested guarantees.

"In the contacts that I have had with Secretary Baker this past month, we discussed the detailed wording of the five points that have been modified, plus additional assurances that Secretary Baker in principle is ready to give," Arens said.

### 'Guarantees'

The following is a list of six guarantees which Israeli officials said they would seek from the United States before implementing Baker's formula.

— Talks will be held only with Arab residents of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, not those living in Arab Jerusalem or overseas.

As the United States knows and understands, Israel will not negotiate with the PLO.

— The subject of the talks

will be Palestinian elections, within the framework of the Israeli government's "peace" initiative.

— The United States will publicly support Israel's position and back what Israeli actions may be necessary if the agreement is broken.

— The United States and Egypt will affirm their support for the Camp David principles as a basis for negotiations.

— One meeting will be held in Cairo and its results will determine whether more meetings are held there.

in writing. Sunday's decision ends the wrangling over the Baker plan between Labour and the right-wing Likud bloc.

But it was certain to increase dissent in Shimon Peres's Likud bloc, whose hardline members oppose the Baker proposal as a backdoor entry to peace talks for the PLO.

Housing Minister David Levy, a leader of the party's hardliners, said the vote would put Israel in a "very difficult situation."

## Troops break up U.S. protesters in Beit Sahour

BEIT SAHOUR, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops Sunday forcibly broke up a protest by some 2,000 Palestinian residents, clergymen and American visitors supporting a tax revolt in this West Bank town.

The soldiers did not use firearms but manhandled protesters refusing to return to their homes in obedience to orders issued from armoured personnel carriers driven through the streets.

About 100 Americans of the U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East came to town to take part in a Sunday prayer for peace at Beit Sahour's church.

The Israeli troops carried off some of the Americans who sat in one street defying the orders

to leave. The remainder left peacefully.

Troops seized posters that read "No Taxation Without Representation."

An army roadblock outside the nearby town of Bethlehem barred prominent Palestinian activist Faisal Al Hussein from approaching Beit Sahour to join the prayer. Journalists were also turned back.

The army declared Beit Sahour, a closed military zone and ordered all journalists who had reached the town to leave, a frequent tactic by troops battling the 22-month-old Palestinian uprising.

Beit Sahour was only reopened last week from a siege that sparked international protests and was imposed while

raids were carried out for 42 days on defiant merchants who had refused to pay Israeli taxes.

Sunday's protest in the town of 12,000 people began peacefully as several hundred worshippers congregated in a main church for prayers. Soldiers patrolled the streets but did not interfere with the service.

Journalists said extra troops were brought in when Christian and Muslim clergymen arrived from Jerusalem and 2,000 residents and visitors poured into the street, waving posters protesting at what they termed unfair taxation and proclaiming Muslim-Christian solidarity.

Troops and tax collectors battling the resident's refusal to pay Israeli tax froze bank

accounts and seized \$1.5 million worth of furniture and appliances from Beit Sahour. Sources said the army had now started selling the goods by tender.

Beit Sahour residents also claimed victory when the siege was lifted, saying the majority of people had refused to pay up.

On Saturday, a Palestinian suspected of collaborating with Israel was hacked to death and his body was dumped in a Gaza City street, reports said.

In a separate incident, an 11-year-old Arab boy had both legs and his right hand blown off during a mysterious explosion in the West Bank, army and hospital officials said.

Meanwhile, the army com-

pleted its investigation into last Monday's shooting of a Canadian journalist in the Gaza Strip.

It said its troops "did not act according to regulations" when they opened fire at Palestinians. Jean Francois Lepine of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation was hit in the leg by a rubber coated steel pellet and slightly wounded.

The army took responsibility for the Oct. 30 shooting of the Canadian correspondent.

"An investigation revealed that the army force in the area did not act according to regulations and the necessary conclusions will be taken accordingly," an army statement said.

(Continued on page 3)

## PLO restates stand, but stops short of rejecting Baker plan

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) reaffirmed Sunday its determination to decide who will negotiate for Palestinians with Israel but steered clear of rejecting American proposals.

In a carefully-worded statement after two days of talks in Cairo, PLO policy-makers made no specific mention of a five-point formula put forward by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

"The Baker plan aims to set up the first ever formal talks between Palestinians and Israel by focusing initial negotiations on plans to hold elections in the Israeli-occupied territories."

The elections would choose Palestinian representatives for a further round of peace talks.

Israeli cabinet ministers said Sunday they would accept Baker's plan if they received American assurances the PLO would be kept out of the talks.

To encourage Israeli support, Baker amended the plan last week to give Israel the right to reject members of the Palestinian negotiating team.

A PLO official said the Executive Committee, meeting in Cairo for the first time in 12 years, had reaffirmed its stance that the

PLO should have the final say on the negotiating team.

"The PLO adopted a clear line that it was the only party responsible for the composition of the Palestinian delegation," Said Kamal, the PLO's representative in Cairo, told reporters.

Diplomats say neither Israel nor the PLO wants to be seen to reject the U.S. proposals and be the first to torpedo flagging peace efforts.

"The committee also stressed the need to seek intensified efforts by Arab and friendly European states to convene an international peace conference," the statement added.

Both the Soviet Union and the European Community support the idea of holding an international conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel rejects the plan.

The decision to meet in Cairo has been seen as a symbolic gesture to show support for Egypt's peace efforts. Egypt has come under fire from hardline Palestinians.

"The committee expressed gratitude and appreciation to Egypt, its president, government and people on its support for the Palestinian cause," the statement said.

Kamal, a senior Cairo-based Arab aide, said earlier the Executive Committee was forging a plan in case the Israeli government accepts Baker's revised proposal.

"The committee studied the new developments concerning the ongoing American-Israeli dialogue... especially that concerned to some points of Baker's five-point plan," Kamal told reporters.

"The Executive Committee has entered the phase of forming needed policies to face the possibilities of the Israeli cabinet's acceptance of Baker's proposal," Kamal said. "It (the committee) took a clear position."

Kamal also refused to specify the PLO's position, but added: "The PLO is the first in charge of forming a delegation with the continued coordination with the Egyptian leadership. The interests of the Palestinian people have to be put before any other considerations because of the delicacy of the present phase... putting into consideration what is going on in the occupied territories and the Palestinian uprising."

PLO officials meanwhile, vowed that the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories would escalate and continue.

## Thatcher hints at quitting

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said for the first time in an interview published Sunday that the next general election will be her last.

The indefatigable Thatcher told the Sunday Correspondent she hoped to lead her Conservative Party to a fourth successive election victory, but said it was unlikely she would try for a fifth.

The next election must be held by the summer of 1992, but it is expected Thatcher will call it in 1991.

Asked whether she planned to lead the Conservatives in that vote, Thatcher told the Sunday Correspondent "I hope so."

But asked whether she would seek a fifth term, she was quoted as saying: "No, because I think people would think it was time for someone else to carry the torch."

Thatcher declined to designate a successor, but opinion polls have repeatedly named former Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine as the leading contender, followed by Deputy Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe, Conservative Party chairman Kenneth Baker and former Chairman Norman Tebbit.

"It is not for me to say but there are a number of the next generation whom the party could choose," Thatcher was quoted as saying. "I do not believe a prime minister should try to designate his or her successor."

Thatcher shows no signs of wanting to slow down. But her personal popularity is the lowest of any prime minister since opinion polls began in Britain 50 years ago and senior colleagues have publicly admonished her to



Margaret Thatcher

change her leadership style following the surprise resignation of her treasury chief, Nigel Lawson.

Lawson confirmed in a television interview Sunday that he resigned as chancellor of the exchequer because Thatcher would not agree to get rid of her personal economic adviser Sir Alan Walters by the end of the year.

Lawson said he told Thatcher that Walters' continued presence would be a "running sore" for the government. He said the outspoken Walters was making his own position "untenable" and financial markets were confused about who spoke on behalf of the government.

Thatcher said on the same London weekend television programme the previous Sunday that she did everything within her power to persuade Lawson to remain in her government.

"Perhaps she thought I would back down," Lawson mused. "I don't know. Maybe she could not bring herself to believe that I really meant it, even though I am not someone who plays games."

Opposition leaders and political commentators said that by speculating on the timing of her retirement, Thatcher committed "a colossal blunder" and kicked off the race to succeed her.

## Rafsanjani wants peace

NICOSIA (Agencies) — President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Sunday Iran's actions in rebuilding war-shattered plants near the Iraqi border showed that Tehran wanted a lasting peace with Baghdad.

He was speaking at a meeting in Tehran with United Nations envoy Jan Eliasson, who arrived from Baghdad on a mission to reactivate stalled peace talks between Iran and Iraq, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

Eliasson, who gave Rafsanjani a message from U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, expressed hope that the two countries would soon agree to implement U.N. Resolution 598.

The resolution, under which a ceasefire in August 1988 ended eight years of fighting, forms the basis for talks on a peace settlement.

Three former Iran hostages laid a wreath Saturday at Arlington national cemetery to honour the eight U.S. servicemen who died in the abortive 1980 attempt to rescue Americans being held in Tehran.

Taking part in the ceremony were former hostages Richard Queen, William Royer and re-

tired air force Colonel David Roeder.

The wreath-laying at the Iran rescue mission plaque in the cemetery near Washington was followed by the playing of taps.

The tribute was sponsored by No Greater Love, a humanitarian organisation which promoted the "Yellow Ribbon" campaign during the Iran hostage crisis and now seeks to assist the families of Americans being held in Lebanon.

Bruce Laingen, a board member of No Greater Love, said in a statement: "As a former hostage in Iran, I fervently appeal to those who hold hostage our eight countrymen and others in Beirut today, and to those who can influence them, to restore these men to freedom and their families."

U.S. ceremony

## Greeks vote in fresh elections

ATHENS (AP) — Greeks voted Sunday in the second national elections in five months, hoping to resolve the country's biggest political impasse since the end of a military dictatorship 15 years ago.

Pre-election opinion polls indicated the conservative New Democracy Party led by Constantine Mitsotakis was leading but might not win a majority in the 300-seat single-chamber parliament.

If no one gets a majority, tough negotiations would open among the leading parties, which are widely divided over such major issues as economic policy and the presence of U.S. military bases in Greece.

The Panhellenic Socialist Union (Pasok) was also expected to make a strong showing Sunday — even though its leader, former

balloting. The June 18 vote produced no majority, but the Communist-led coalition agreed to team with its enemies, the Conservatives, in a short-term government dedicated only to investigating the scandals that dogged the final years of the 1981-89 Pasok administration.

The coalition government resigned last month after indicating Papanastasiou on charges of involvement in a multimillion-dollar banking scandal and of ordering wiretapping of the telephones of his friends and foes.

Papanastasiou has said he was innocent and maintains the indictments were politically motivated. Many of his supporters appeared to have believed him.

In Athens, a beaming Papanastasiou told reporters: "I expect victory, overwhelming victory."



# Ethiopian rebels report killing 100 troops as peace talks begin

**Juba, 1,200 kilometres south of Khartoum and the capital of the southern region of Equatoria, is almost totally besieged by the rebels. It's inhabitants, many of**

This document, which was adopted by a TPLF congress in March, calls for the formation of a broad-based provisional government in Ethiopia that would include representatives of all the country's political organisations.

**PARIS (R)** — Several Earth tremors shook Algiers and the coastal town of Tipaza Saturday, six days after a major earthquake killed 24 people. The Algerian News Agency (APS), monitored in Paris, said a shock measuring 4.3 on the Richter Scale hit the area in the evening. Smaller tremors were felt in the morning. It was not immediately known if anyone was hurt. More than 450 people injured and hundreds made homeless when a quake measuring six points on the Richter Scale hit the west of Algiers and Tipaza last Sunday.

Some paid allegiance to the sultans of Morocco, the basis of the king's claim to the territory.

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## Lebanon needs an international boost

IN SPITE of all sincere efforts by Arab and international governments to accommodate General Michel Aoun and win him over to the side of the Taif Accord, he is maintaining his hostile stance on that internationally accepted agreement and engaged in questionable tactics to abort what was painstakingly negotiated and agreed upon. By rejecting the election of Rene Mawad as president by the Lebanese parliament, Aoun has reached the end of the line and exhausted the patience of all parties including his natural allies and supporters. His latest moves reflect his desperation and show that once he is cornered there is no limit to where he would go to frustrate the will of the international community, including that of his own people and supporters. In this sense, General Aoun has become a maverick working against international norms and standards. Still, not much can be done to change his obstinate views on what is best for Lebanon and the Lebanese people. The only sensible thing left to do was of course simply to ignore him and his declarations and to move on with the job of officially adopting the Taif Accord and electing a new Lebanese president through whom the people of Lebanon can unite.

As General Aoun's credentials as head of government are still contested by more than one side, any proclamation emanating from him will naturally be contested as well. The fact that General Aoun chose to supersede the decision of the parliament, which is, relatively speaking, the most legitimate representative of the Lebanese people still in existence, shows the general's utter contempt for the will of his own people. Such drastic steps by General Aoun will further isolate him in the regional as well as the international arenas which, in turn, undermines his authority, or whatever is left of it after the election of a new president Sunday.

What constitutes legitimacy in the final analysis is what the governments of the world decide to do. If the governments of the world bestow recognition on the new government as they seem poised to do, and the United Nations follows suit by adopting a formal decision by the U.N. Security Council accepting the decisions of the parliament, then there is nothing that General Aoun can do to stop the legal and political effects of such judgments. Recognition of governments is essentially a political act that acquires legal effect once that recognition becomes universal. Thus the road to salvation in Lebanon is to have the U.N. play its part immediately by extending recognition to the new president and his government.

### JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i newspaper Sunday discussed Lebanon where the deputies are making ready for a meeting that would elect a new president for the country. Should a quorum be achieved and a meeting take place, a constitutional president would be elected to help enhance the state of peace and stability which prevailed in Lebanon since the Arab League mediation committee drew up a ceasefire last month, the paper noted. It said that regardless of any objections from the Christian leader Michel Aoun, the parliament deputies are determined to carry out an Arab League-sponsored plan and bring back peace to their country. Therefore, a parliament session which is to take place Sunday or Monday is bound to bring an end to the long and dark tunnel through which Lebanon had lived over the past 15 years of civil strife. Should the current efforts for peace fail, Lebanon will find itself facing another era of grim and dangerous future, the paper added. It said for this reason, the Lebanese people are now looking forward to the election of a president and a new stage of peaceful life after the long sufferings and destruction in their country.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily strongly attacks the Ethiopian government for restoring diplomatic relations with Israel. The move is seen as helping the regime in Addis Ababa to overcome numerous problems resulting from mis-administration, says Mahmoud Rimawi. The writer notes that the decision to restore ties with the Jewish state followed statements by Addis Ababa that it hoped to bolster its ties with the Arab World which, he points out, served as an underhand dealing on the part of the Ethiopian government. In return for this, the regime in Addis Ababa is certain to acquire assistance from the United States and Israel which stands to win from the step, the writer adds. He says that the world will now see a greater migration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel and a further collaboration between Tel Aviv and Addis Ababa at the expense of the Arab and African nations. But the writer wonders about the prospects of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) which has its headquarters in Addis Ababa in view of the fact that the African nations are rallying to confront the Pretoria regime which is currently stepping up its nuclear collaboration with Israel.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the situation in Lebanon where it said only one person, Michel Aoun is confronting the majority and the will of the Arab and international community. The paper said the Lebanese parliament deputies meeting should take place and a president should be elected to bring an end to the civil strife in Lebanon. The success of the parliament deputies in reaching consensus on a national charter ought not to be marred now by the Christian leader whose ideas can no longer be feasible. The paper urged all the parties in Lebanon and Aoun himself to give peace a chance, and to pave the way for stability and security in Lebanon.

### Weekly Political Pulse

## Political parties — conspicuous by sheer absence

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

THE STILL exaggerated number of candidates competing for the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections and the proliferation of slogans and campaign platforms decorating these elections suggest that future elections would continue to lack coherence and organisation if political parties are not formed. As things stand now for this year's elections, voters have been confused by the utter lack of organisation that reigned supreme as a direct consequence of just too many candidates with an even greater number of banners festooning the street of the country. The only effective and operational way then to rectify the errors of the Nov. 8 elections is to introduce a limited number of political parties along the lines that could be articulated in the projected National Pact. Needless to say, there are hardly any viable parliamentary system in the whole world without political parties that draw heavily on their own respective national experiences, norms and traditions.

Such political tools would go a long way to render political platforms more coherent by injecting discipline and responsibility in their formulation. Moreover, the number of contestants in any given elections would also remain within the realm of reason as each political party would exercise direct control on the number of candidates who run on their own separate slates. And what is even more relevant would be the control that such parties could exercise over the slogans or political platforms that are presented to the electorates.

As things stand now, there is no way to determine the credibility of the various political platforms which different candidates have espoused. As at least some of the contestants can be presumed to have professed flamboyant slogans for only public consumption, without the benefit of some form of guardianship that can be exercised through disciplined and organised political parties, such exaggerated claims and promises would continue unabated. In other words, had we in Jordan two political parties during this year's national elections, many positive features could have been realised: First, the number of candidates could have been reduced to reasonable proportions. Secondly, the political platforms of the various candidates could have been more coherent and realistic. Thirdly, the contents of the political platforms could have been toned down to meaningful proportions as well. So, without the control that such political parties could have performed during this year's elections there was no limit to what contestants would go to propagate their slogans. Likewise there was no limit to the number of those seeking public confidence and trust. The end result, of course, is elections lacking control, discipline and coherence.

But all is not lost as this year's parliamentary elections can still serve as a big lesson on which all future elections can draw heavily. After all, the continuing process of democratisation in Jordan is a perpetual learning process. The Kingdom cannot be

expected to master the art of elections in one giant leap but rather through the trials and tribulations of many imperfect elections. If this year's elections can teach us that much more and educate us also that much more, then it is a very positive step on the path towards wiser and more viable elections in the future. Thus as I read the situation connected with this year's parliamentary elections, the biggest drawback was the absence of, let's say, two giant political parties under whose wings would lie and operate all the splinter political parties and forces that have sought expression during this Nov. 8 elections.

Fortunately, the proposed National Pact is projected to deal with this very issue and hopefully will rectify this year's shortcomings. The elected parliamentarians in the Nov. 8 elections will of course be expected to debate this matter during the course of their deliberations on the much talked about National Pact.

Having gained or even suffered from the experiences of this year's experiment in electing, they should be in an appropriate condition to spell out their thoughts on the contents of the National Pact and offer their words of wisdom on the framework of future political parties. If they succeed in such a mission they would have rendered the country and their constituencies a great deal of good. If they fail, they would fall not only their electorates but also the entire country.

## Forgotten region becomes focus of Greek elections

By Dina Kyriakidou  
Reporter

MONASTIRAKI, Greece — Women struggle to heat water with wood fires and men sit in the tiny coffee shop under a gas lamp in the shadow of the rugged mountains of central Greece.

They talk often about World War II and the bloody civil war which followed.

They speculate on when the winter snows will fall, cutting the village off again, and ask the rare visitor for a newspaper, "so difficult to get here."

"Our vote is as important as anyone's but we are forsaken by all," village mayor Panayotis Tolis told Reuters during a recent visit.

Monastiraki is some 60 kilometres north of Karpuzis, the capital of impoverished and isolated Evritania province, two hours' drive through thick green forests, mostly over dirt roads and shabby wooden bridges.

The personal commitment which Constantine Mitsotakis, leader of the centre-right New Democracy Party, has made to holding the province's single seat in parliament has thrown Evritania into the limelight.

His daughter, Dora Bakoyannis, is a candidate for the seat in Sunday's national election and holding it is vital to Mitsotakis' bid to increase his 145 seats in the 300-seat parliament into an absolute majority.

She has replaced her husband, slain New Democracy Deputy Pavlos Bakoyannis, who won his traditionally left-wing native region from the Socialists in June elections.

Bakoyannis, shot dead by the November 17 guerrilla group in Athens on September 26, had proposed a plan which he hoped would propel the region into the 20th century.

The plan included industrial, tourist and agricultural development as well as much needed roads, irrigation, sewerage and social services. It was intended to stop young people from leaving the area in search of work.

More than half of Evritania's voters live elsewhere. With none of the thriving tourist trade enjoyed by much of Greece, it offers only a few jobs in farming and forestry and the lowest incomes in the country.

Bakoyannis has pledged to pursue her husband's policies for the region she calls "the poorest place in Europe," and which even the Ottomans thought so remote that for 400 years they avoided collecting taxes here.

During the highly emotional campaign, she has observed a 40-day mourning period, making no speeches and refraining from visiting the remote villages still reeling of the 19th century.

"You might invest money in roads but if people don't have

work and a decent standard of living they'll just use the roads to get out," she has said.

Road building was a major project of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) which, during its eight years in power before its June election defeat, pumped European Community funds into the area.

Many people remain loyal to Pasok, led by former Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, because of its efforts to develop Evritania.

"Before the road was opened to our village by Pasok we walked or rode mules. We were forgotten," the Monastiraki mayor said.

Most people in Monastiraki said they would vote again for Pasok because of the new road, although they still lack jobs as well as telephones, electricity and sewers. Families rely on pensions and state subsidies to make ends meet.

"Under these conditions I wouldn't want my children to live here," Tolis said.

Bakoyannis' candidacy drew strong reactions from the Socialists who lost the seat despite allocating funds for roads, telephones and electricity in many villages and providing transport for school children.

"New Democracy is capitalising on Bakoyannis' murder by running Dora as a candidate. She doesn't even come from here," local Pasok member Stelios Klitsikas said.

During World War II leftist partisans drove the occupying Nazis out of the mountains and declared the area "Free Greece." But the brutal civil war that followed Greece's liberation left bitter memories, Tolis said.

One villager, who said he was paid by the British-backed Greek army to fight against Communist insurgents in the civil war, pledged his vote to New Democracy.

"I don't know Dora but if my party runs a donkey for a candidate I'll vote for it," Costas Koutsopoulos, 78, said.

According to opinion polls New Democracy is ahead of Pasok in the national election campaign but is short of an absolute majority.

Regions such as Evritania, which send a single deputy to parliament, have become increasingly important to Mitsotakis as he fights to add six deputies to the 145 seats his conservative party won in June.

New Democracy won all five single seat constituencies from Pasok and must hold as many as possible to have any chance of winning an absolute majority.

The five seats, traditionally leftist, backed Pasok in its 1981 and 1985 landslide wins and the Socialists are going all out to win them back to increase their 125 deputies in parliament.

## Rise of democracy, fall of tribalism?

By Mariam M. Shahin

AMMAN — Arabic coffee is served to elders gathered in large tents to approve one of them as their "face" to the world. Their strongest, wisest and often the wealthiest man among them thus becomes their tribal leader, — "sheikh al ashireh" — the traditional way tribal leaders have been chosen since time immemorial.

Although tribal tents were seen and the aroma of Arabic coffee was stronger all over Jordan for the last month, things are changing.

As Jordanians, young and old, head for the polls on Nov. 8, the paramount questions are: For whom will they vote and what single most important issue or loyalty will decide their vote? In a country known to be home to Arab tribes and their traditions, no-one knows to what degree the famous proverb "Me against my brother, my brother and I against my cousin, my cousin and I against our neighbour and my neighbour and I against the stranger," will hold true.

As 650 candidates vie for the 80 seats in the Lower House of Parliament, many people are wondering on what basis those who will actually vote from the 876,693 voters who have collected their voting cards.

Although tribalism and regionalism were seen as the main attractions of some candidates, the voters don't necessarily think so.

Since tribal affiliations have been the key to solving problems, may they be social, economic, educational or religious since time began in this ancient land, what is seen as cracks in tribal strength are viewed with dismay by many traditionalists.

"The young people think they know better than we do, that they can get by without their clan by reciting ideological poetry and thus winning the minds and hearts of the strange masses," said one traditional tribal leader in Irbid Governorate referring to candidates who refused to associate themselves along tribal lines. "Well, it won't work," he asserted.

### Role of tribalism

What role is tribalism playing in the elections? How much have people's politics changed in Jordanian society over the decades? These questions were posed to candidates, tribal and non-tribal, in various parts of the Kingdom.

Many candidates felt that there was a possibility that some voters may vote only for one candidate so as to strengthen the chances of "his" or "her" candidate and weaken the rest. This has apparently been suggested in many electorate districts in the Kingdom. Voters with tribal, religious or ideological affiliations have stated their intentions to adopt this rather archaic voting policy although they are aware that "this is not the way it was meant to be," as one voter told the Jordan Times. Encouraged by candidates, some voters said they would vote for their relatives only or for a certain "chosen" candidate only "because I want him to have a better chance than the rest. Why should I divide the votes I have?"

"No one knows how many people will abstain from participating from the full election process in order to give their votes to the candidate of their choice, may be traditional, fundamental, or progressive in outlook. This is one of the unknown elements in this election," says a candidate from Karak who withdrew his candidacy a week ago because too many people from his tribe were running.

What was once seen as a paramount factor in most parts of rural Jordan, tribal authority or traditional politics, as it is often called, is probably facing its toughest test to date.

In the north and south of Jordan, as well as the centre, almost every tribe, "of any consequence," has two or more candidates vying for votes from the same electorate. Traditionally, a clan, or "ashireh" as they are known, would come to an official or unofficial consensus about their tribal leader — the man who had all what it takes to represent what may be up to 20,000 or more members of the same tribe.

According to tribal candidates in the various districts most tribal voters will vote for only one of the candidates in their tribe. However, several voters told the Jordan Times that they will vote for "all four" or "all seven" of the candidates who belong to their clan. A consensus as to how tribal voting in these elections will take place therefore does not really exist, or so it seems.

In Irbid Governorate, a consensus among voters from its 58 villages has brought the fellahin or village candidate to the surface. Although the chosen nominee to parliament is almost guaranteed the village votes, many villagers who have encouraged other village candidates to run with an outside side hope that a member of their clan will also reach parliament.

### An exception

An outstanding exception in this year's tribal election politics seem to be the Obaidats in the Beni Kanana and Ramtha district.

A tribe with an estimated 8,000 voting members, the Obaidats held clan meeting and decided to nominate one man to represent the tribe of 20,000-odd members. The candidate, Qassem Obaidat, seems to have appealed to both the younger and older members of the clan and eventually won the support of Ahmad Obaidat, who is said to have favoured another man to become the tribe's nominee.

"The division of tribal votes could be a tricky business in these elections" concedes one member of a Karak clan which claims to have 6,000 voting members. "We are one of the biggest clans, but if our 6,000 votes are split up into our 7 candidates then none of our nominees may reach parliament. Another clan with only 1,000 voting members who has only one candidate may have a better chance of getting their man into parliament because they have a consensus. All this is very sad because some of the important tribes that have always had their people represented may be losing out in these elections," he said.

### Reasons

The reasons for the fracture in tribal consensus are multifold. Since the last general elections in Jordan in 1967, education has become relatively widespread in the Kingdom. The "wise men" who, through their distinctive education or experience, had traditionally stood out as clan leaders are being challenged by a newer and younger breed of self-styled know-it-alls.

Rapid urbanisation and a quick increase in material wealth as well as the practical universalisation of education have left relatively few of Jordan's youth illiterate in their ABC's and "the ways of the world."

Many "younger" candidates — may they be in their forties and fifties — are thus challenging the "outmoded" ways of the traditional leaders. The argument is simple. To quote one of them: "Tribal leaders have had their chance. Look where it got them. Our rural areas have been neglected as far as educational, economic, social and cultural developmental projects are concerned. So why should they be given another chance?"

Tribal candidates and non-tribal candidates alike agree that tribal politics as such are limited to the regions outside the capital.

"In Amman, it does not really matter what tribe any candidate is from. He could be much more powerful if he happens to be an "Islamic" candidate or an ideologue of some sort rather than a member of a big Jordanian tribe," says one tribal candidate from Karak. Another candidate, representing a large Salti clan, says that "in Amman, there are a lot of Palestinians tend to be somewhat less tribal than Jordanians, who have more of a tribal tradition to begin with."

Some candidates in Karak Governorate estimate that 60 per cent or more of the votes will be cast according to tribal affiliations, regardless of religious or ideological tendencies.

Candidates in Irbid, however, do not foresee such an outcome in their district. "In the villages outside Irbid many people will vote for members of their tribe who live in Irbid," said a candidate. "They want to vote along tribal lines but they also want someone who is around if they need him. They are openly complaining about members of their clan who moved into big houses in Amman, drive big cars and don't bother to show up for family weddings and funerals and then have the nerve to come at election time and say 'I am your man in Parliament'."

Unlike Karak candidates who feel that tribalist attitudes have not waned since they took roots centuries ago, Irbid candidates see things differently. According to one candidate with Arab-nationalist leanings, "in the 1950s tribal affiliations were not as strong as they were in the '60s, '70s, and '80s because we had parties then. People had an alternative. When you don't give people a chance to be something but an Islamic fundamentalist, a member of a tribe or a Palestine refugee, then that's all he will be. If you allow political parties then Islamic fundamentalism, regionalism and tribalism will be hit at the core and lose much of the popularity they enjoy today."

With a kaleidoscope of trends ranging from "Islamist" to "establishment", "nationalist" and "leftist", confusing the electorate as to "where they really stand" and "what they really want," some traditional tribal leaders are annoyed at what they see as "a rebellion of midgets, those little nobodies who think a fancy suit and a university certificate will make them leaders," as one traditional tribal leader put it. The "younger" candidates, however, believe that the more traditional older candidates have not lived up to their responsibilities and have not done their utmost to serve their respective communities.

"Our leaders have wanted us to serve them and given us a very superficial protection and face saving image in return," in other words nothing substantial," says a "younger" tribal candidate.

Although tribal loyalties do not seem to be disappearing in any way, a more active and concervative leadership is being demanded by voters young and old all over Jordan. "The force of the tribe and the loyalty that it demands still exist very strongly but it may be in the course of reconstruction, the people are demanding that their leaders answer to their needs and demands — this is progressive traditionalism," another young candidate concluded.

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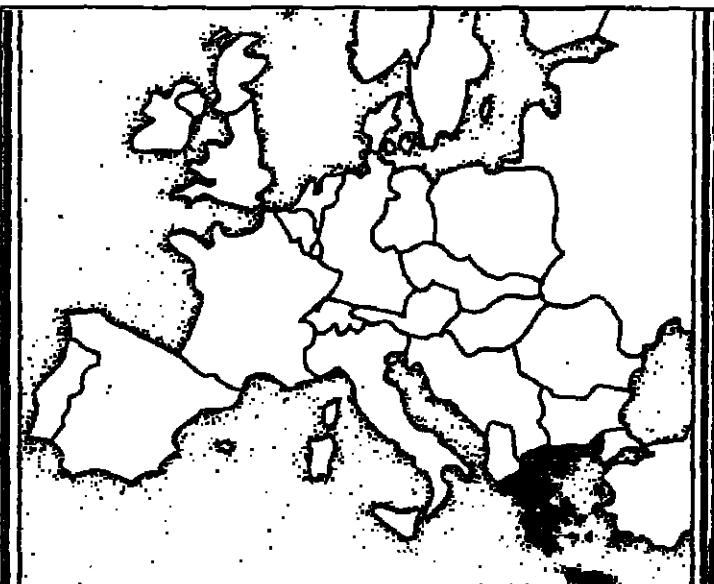
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# In search of cosmic awareness

By Phillipa Neave

PARIS — Money, a nice house and a car, along with professional and social success, are what most people aspire to and work for. In Western and other industrialised nations, where the "rat race" toward material success is more intense than ever, a slow, quiet change is beginning to affect the thinking of a growing number of people.

Two decades ago, when the hippies of the 1960s sat cross-legged meditating in the lotus position of Hindu yoga and climbed the Himalayas in search of the Buddhist wisdom of Tibetan monks, they were dismissed as "fringe loners." But 10 years later, centres offering yoga, meditation classes and a host of other self-awareness techniques can be found in almost any large city or town. Here people take refuge from the frantic activity of modern society, seeking something more rewarding than the latest model of automobile or dishwasher.

"People everywhere are talking of a 'new rise in consciousness.' The belief that man should be more in tune with the universe because man is part of the universe is expressed in diverse ways, from individual experi-

ences to worldwide demonstrations for peace and events to raise funds for famine and flood relief. Such an event is the annual "Mind and Body Festival" in London, which attracts thousands.

The drive toward a better understanding of man's place in the cosmos and increasing awareness of spiritual values will, believers say, lead to a "New Age." This concept has led to a new wave of literature, study groups, lecture series and discussion groups around the world. Many of the largest publishing houses now offer "New Age" collections. Books such as Marilyn Ferguson's "The Aquarian Conspiracy" are now considered classics in the genre, read by supporters and sceptics alike.

Although mainstream New Age thinking seeks a balance between modern materialism and spiritual well-being, smaller groups are going even farther, rejecting the "rat race" altogether. One such group exists on the enchanting island of Bora-Bora in French Polynesia. Calling itself "Galacteus," it has about 100 members. Until recently the group has been little known, but its members have now begun to tour various capitals of the world to meet similar-minded groups

and share the results of over a decade of research.

Most of the "Galacteus" members are French. Alain de Beco, one of the original members of the group, recently returned to his native Paris, where he described the origins and aims of the movement: "We started out about 20 years ago as a group of friends in France and have since developed relations with people all over the world. We have built up a network of people who have been 'contacted' and are in touch with extra-terrestrial forces, energies and civilisations," said the 36-year-old.

## Other forms of life

The people whom de Beco describes live in Switzerland, Spain, Brazil, Italy or France and have gone through what are known as "near death" or "out-of-body" experiences. "Studies have shown that in the United States alone there are some 8 million people who have lived through different stages of the experience," he added. "It is now seen as a bridge between science and tradition. Modern-day doctors and scientists are investigating 'near death' experiences, while you find the same kind of descriptions in the ancient Tibetan 'Book of the Dead.'"

"Regardless of religion, place or age, thousands of these accounts indicate that the world does not stop at the physical plane, but that there are other forms of life." De Beco and other Galacteus members have recently begun to help organise similar groups in Brazil, Mexico, Czechoslovakia and France, among other countries, to expand and coordinate their activities worldwide.

The founding father of Galacteus, the French Jean-Paul Appel Guery, continues to lead the community. His interest was aroused by a series of "out-of-body" experiences beginning at age 12. Guery, now 56, has published several books and has been working with computers for years, designing elaborate "inspirational" images of extra-terrestrial beings and places that he claims he either "visited" during his out-of-body experiences or "saw" through telepathy.

Guery's most famous book, "Timeless Journey," tells through beautiful illustrations the story of an astonishing "astral" voyage by an enlightened character (himself, one suspects) into other dimensions of time and space.

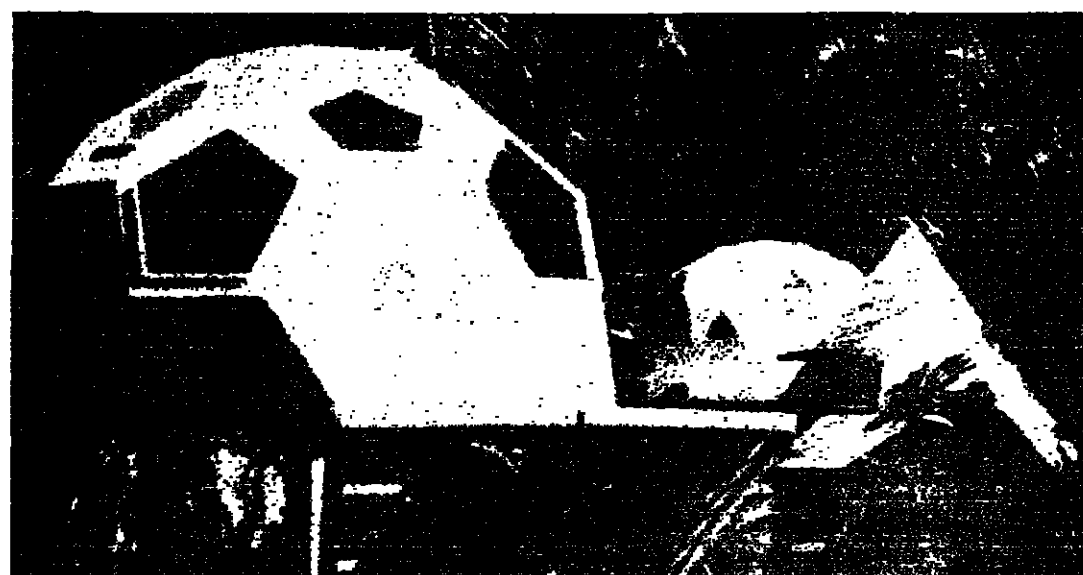
Not everyone in the Galacteus community has lived through

such esoteric experiences, but all try to attain a certain level of physical and mental purity. Says de Beco: "We have chosen a lifestyle that seems to us more normal: we don't smoke, we don't drink alcohol, we don't take any drugs and we don't eat meat. The reason why we are vegetarians is that we believe that the human digestive system, which has an abnormally long intestine for a mammal, is more akin to that of a herbivorous than that of a carnivorous mammal. But we don't make an absolute rule or dogma of any of these principles, we just live that way because we feel much better for it."

## No luxury

The Pacific Ocean paradise of Bora-Bora, near Tahiti, with its crystal-clear waters and palm-fringed sandy beaches, is undoubtedly conducive to a stress-free life. But there is nothing luxurious about the way the Galacteus members live. They bought what was a wild, mosquito-infested piece of land by the ocean on the northern part of the island, and each member built a house with the materials that were locally available.

"Though most people in the community come from a creative background — we have a lot of



Homes of the Galacteus group in Bora-Bora: the looks of an extra-terrestrial tribal village.

singers, dancers, writers and musicians — there are also people who are architects, carpenters, plumbers, and everyone helps everyone else," de Beco explained. By design, most of the houses built among the vegetation look futuristic: translucent domes, honeycomb globes, pyramids, flying saucers. De Beco's own house is a hexagonal globe suspended from a large, triangular frame; it doesn't touch the ground but sways gently with the wind and the movement of its occupants.

The group spends most of its time studying religions and philosophies as well as spiritual and extra-terrestrial life. "Most of us, like myself, were brought up in the West, where education is totally devoid of any of the things one can learn through yoga or the other traditions. We are attempting to draw knowledge from all of the world's religions and traditions. We see religions as branches of a tree: what we are looking for is the trunk of that tree. We also try to reconcile North and South, East and West, the past, the present and the future," de Beco said.

The youngest in an upper-middle-class family of 11 children, he has strayed far from the path mapped out for him. After a traditional French education, he obtained a degree in architecture, a profession he never practised.

In contrast, his twin sister, Anne, the mother of two children, is a highly paid executive in one of France's largest industrial conglomerates.

Her brother's priorities lie else-

where. "The important thing is to learn that we are not only a physical body but also a body of energy and that this energy has centres in the body and circulates around it," he said. "This has been known for centuries in medicine — in acupuncture, for example. One can learn to control and use this energy, to transmute from negative energy into positive energy. Evil has only the power we give it; what we are trying to do is to achieve a mutation of energies toward the positive."

Although the Galacteus members were attracted to Polynesia by the climate and environment, they also sought an area where they could spend as little of their time as possible on the earth-bound task of earning money to survive. On Bora-Bora, everyone in the community works. "We all have some sort of money-making occupation, but almost everyone is doing something creative. Some design fabrics and clothes, others jewellery, others put on music and dance shows for the tourists," de Beco explained. He helped to organise a company to market the community's products, and he also sells cultured black pearls, a new industry on the island that is highly appreciated by Japanese tourists.

De Beco stresses that the Galacteus group is far removed from any of the notorious "sects" in which members are forced to surrender their wealth and undergo brainwashing designed to alienate them from families and friends. "We are part of the world, we operate as a coopera-

tive... and we pool our resources to pay for the printing of our materials and books, for computers and for producing videos and cassette tapes," he noted.

Still the group wants to focus mostly on what goes on beyond the physical plane. Says de Beco of his own experience: "I have seen UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) several times, sometimes I was looking out for them and expecting them, other times it was by chance. Also, I have developed a certain sensitivity and am able to receive telepathic messages. Almost everyone experiences telepathy at one time or another, with someone they love, for example, but there are ways to work on it."

"This is why physical purification is important to us, because the body is a sort of channel between heaven and earth, and by keeping ourselves pure, we can develop our senses, including what is known as the sixth sense."

Willpower is the important factor, he added. "We all have the spark in us, you have to work and persevere. Once you take that path, it is like a rebirth." De Beco, along with many in New Age thinkers, believes that as more people "think positive" around the world, the more positive energy there will be to counter military threats. "This field of inspiration that illuminated the prophets of our great religions is a universal current, a field of energy that exists around us," he stressed, the shining light in his piercing blue eyes coming from far, far away. — World News Link

## Are artists going too far?

By Allison J. Pugh  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Practitioners of shock art have danced barefoot on glass and bitten the heads off live animals. Now one of them faces possible arrest for lighting fireworks on his chest, again raising the question: How much is too much?

Shock art can appear in mild forms such as that practised by Joe Davis, who has shouted out his poetry while aides poured water on his head. It can be as severe as Chris Burden's being nailed to a Volkswagen or having someone shoot him.

The practice of defining new art forms by shocking people set off a national debate recently over public funding of an exhibit by photographer Robert Map-

plethorpe, which featured homosexual and sadomasochistic photographs.

"Some art might shock and disturb people, and that's certainly a valid thing for art to do," said Jeremy Alliger, executive director at Boston's Dance Umbrella, which recently featured a Japanese artist who danced barefoot on glass. "He is actually composing on the glass" said Alliger.

The limit, however, is "when people are placed without knowledge in a position of danger themselves," he said. "Whether that can be classified as art or not, it's inappropriate."

Joe Coleman may have provided the acid test in Boston. Alliger said Coleman crossed the line by endangering his audience. Coleman, who appeared be-

fore a small audience at the Boston film and video foundation, bit off the head and front legs of a white mouse and hugged one spectator after he poured a bucket of blood over himself. He also ignited fireworks on his chest and some burning shards landed in the audience.

"It was definitely a terrifying experience," said Viveca Gardiner, 23, a financial writer in Somerville. "We weren't protected and we were definitely in danger."

One of the smoldering pieces flew into the face of Robin Brown, who sat near Gardiner in the audience. She said she brushed it off her cheek, and it then landed on her skirt and burned a hole the size of a dime.

"If it had landed on my eye, it definitely would have blinded me," said Brown, 23, an editor

for a market research firm in Cambridge.

Fire officials said they would press to have charges filed in the case. Lighting fireworks inside is illegal, as is setting fires without a permit or a fire detail present, fire chief Howard Ferguson said.

## Animal rights

"We are trying to find out how many things we can charge them with," said Ferguson, who admitted authorities had not yet determined whom they would charge. They also can't find Coleman, who is based in New York, Ferguson said.

Animal rights activists, patrons and even some leaders of the arts community say Coleman went too far.

"There's a lot of concern about

(use of animals in artistic acts and movies), and I think a lot of the industry is trying to be responsible," said Gus Thornton, head of the state Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The head of the Boston Film and Video Foundation disavowed any connection with Coleman. Anne Marie Stein said the Coleman performance was the independent project of a foundation member, and the act was not funded by the public sources that support regular foundation work.

While she said she generally believes in letting people decide for themselves what they think is art, the foundation would not permit acts that could endanger the lives of people or involve cruelty to animals.

"I think that goes too far," she said of Coleman's performance.

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# Jordanian government approves various loans, adopts measures to boost productivity, employment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has agreed to the terms of a \$150 million loan from the World Bank, following months of talks in Amman and Washington.

"The loan will support the industrial and export sector and the balance of payments and will help to finance imports of capital goods, raw materials and basic commodities," Information Minister Nasouh Al Majali told reporters.

He said the cabinet endorsed the loan Saturday evening, but did not say when the agreement would be signed.

The money would also be used to help to implement a plan to increase Jordanian exports and investment, he added.

Finance Minister Basel Jarrah said Japan will lend Jordan a further \$150 million and West Germany \$17 million to support the World Bank programme.

Jordan agreed a fiscal and monetary programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in April and signed a debt rescheduling agreement with its official creditors in July.

A rescheduling accord with commercial bank creditors grouped in the London Club is still under negotiation.

Furthermore, the council of ministers endorsed a decision for the merger of the Free Zones Corporation and the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) with a view to boosting the operations and the activities of both departments in the field of development and in providing the necessary infrastructure for the national industry and to boost exports.

According to Majali, the council of ministers also approved two loan agreements between the Jordanian government and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development.

Under the terms of the two agreements the two institutions will grant Jordan eight million Kuwaiti dinars to bolster the production efforts undertaken by the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC).

The JEA, Majali explained, will benefit from the loan to finance purchases required to carry out a power distribution and maintenance service while the JPMC will use the loan to purchase equipment to increase its fertiliser production and other phosphate mining operations.

The Jordanian government will re-lend the two loans to the JEA and the JPMC under the same conditions and terms reached with the Arab funds. Both companies will pay back the loans over 22.5 years with a five year grace period at a 4.5 per cent interest rate, Majali added.

According to the minister of culture and information, the

council of ministers approved a comprehensive study on the importation of medicine. He revealed that a special committee will be formed to review medicine prices and that a new set of principles will be adopted for drug imports.

The minister said that the committee will be instructed to bring about a reduction in the price of drugs by at least 4.5 per cent.

The minister said that the council discussed a ministerial committee report on unemployment in Jordan and set recommendations which, among other things, call for giving priority to employment to jobless persons.

He said that the council has decided in principle to set up a national aid fund which will incorporate all charitable and social welfare funds and will be designed to finance and support productive projects and offer soft loans especially to the unemployed.

According to the council of ministers, efforts will be increased in the area of finding employment for Jordanian workers through a private sector company which will be established in cooperation with the Social Security Corporation.

# Peking forces entrepreneurs to purchase government bonds

PEKING (R) — China's new generation of private entrepreneurs, already threatened by a return to more orthodox communism, are being forced to buy government bonds to fund the country's huge budget deficit.

Restaurant owners, shopkeepers and stallholders say they are angry but powerless to object because of their precarious position in China's changing political scene.

"There's no escape. Everybody has to pay," complained one stallholder Sunday.

"I'll have to cough up next week — maybe 1,000 yuan (\$270)," he said, pointing out he was already badly hit by the slump in tourism which followed suppression of the student-led democracy movement in June.

"I didn't have any choice," said a shopkeeper. "They just said 'pay up'. Two hundred yuan (\$55). I'm lucky to make that in one month now."

The bonds mature after three years and bear an interest rate linked to inflation which was calculated by authorities to be a year-on-year 13 per cent in September.

Workers across China in the state sector are also finding their wages docked, sometimes with little explanation. A standard sum seems to be about 100 yuan (\$27), or up to a half a month's wages.

One worker said his unit,

This year's state budget deficit is expected to exceed 35 billion yuan (\$9.5 billion) against 34 billion (\$9.2 billion) in 1988.

Unlike previous issues, the last batch of bonds is not tradeable on secondary markets because, Western economists said, Peking is anxious to reduce the enormous sums of money outside the banking system.

"It's sensible in macroeconomic terms, a good way of funding the budget deficit and in the short term soaking up excess liquidity," one economist said.

"But it's compulsory. It's perhaps the best you can expect from this system. It's an open question whether they will pay the money back. They will have to judge the mood of the people," he added.

The official, Economic Daily recently reported the bonds had met unexpected success with crowds rushing to buy them.

People were motivated by "their high degree of patriotic spirit" and the fact that the bonds were index-linked. To meet demand, the authorities would soon print 5,000 yuan (\$1,350) bonds, the newspaper added.

One civil servant said some people, perhaps worried about their position after last May's mass protests, were buying more than their allocation to show political loyalty.

"It looks good if you volunteer to buy more," he said.

Meanwhile, China's unemployment rate is set to double this year, a senior economist warned, presenting a new challenge to a government struggling to reduce inflation through unpopular austerity.

"The sword of Damocles hanging over the capitalist society is now hanging over the heads of the workers of new China," Song Xiaowu said, quoted by the China Daily.

China's jobless rate would probably reach four per cent by the end of this year, double the number out of work last February, Song, labour director of the China Enterprise Management Association, told a business conference.

Four per cent is low compared with most Western countries but in China with a population of 1.1 billion it represents many millions.

# Economists back far-reaching rescue plan for Soviet Union

MOSCOW (R) — Senior Soviet economists appear set to push through a wide-ranging programme to revitalise the country's moribund economy, including ownership of private property and the introduction of a free-market system.

The so-called "radical-moderate" programme is not as strong as that proposed by extreme radicals but leans more towards far-reaching reform than tinkering with existing structures.

Its main aims are to encourage private enterprise by removing state controls, favouring private property ownership, breaking up state monopolies on industry and removing most restrictions on foreign trade.

An article carried by the official TASS news agency said the programme looked likely to win the day when senior advisers and economists meet in Moscow in a week's time for an unprecedented three-day conference on the country's financial state.

Industrial production has slumped since July, strikes are on the increase and the country is on its way to recording its first negative trade balance since 1976. Leaders from President Mikhail Gorbachev downwards admit the

country is in the midst of a major economic crisis.

The TASS article said those attending the meeting, which starts Nov. 13, could be categorised as conservatives, radicals and radical-moderates.

The article's author, S. Turanov, briefly sketched the ideas of the first two camps before coming down firmly in favour of the radical-moderates, whose programme he described as a "reasonable combination" of the first two.

Their programme — which was recently published by the weekly Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta — is widely believed to have been written by Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Abalkin, who will chair the three-day meeting.

Abalkin, in charge of a state commission into economic reform, is becoming an increasingly influential adviser and was brought into the government over the summer to oversee efforts to put the economy back on its feet.

Turanov said of the radical-moderate programme: "This choice is the most preferable — that is the conclusion of the scientists and economists who were invited to study the materials which will be discussed at the

meeting."

The radical-moderates want to cut state price controls gradually while setting up a system of social security to ensure people are not harmed by the change to a more free-market system, one of whose side-effects would be increased inflation.

"(Their measures) would give a powerful impulse for the creation of a consumer market while creating the means to regulate the process," Turanov wrote.

The programme will have a strong influence on the shape of the next five-year economic plan — starting in 1991 — which Kremlin advisers say is vital for the future of Gorbachev's perestroika programme of reforms.

Turanov's article was highly unusual in that it gave an objective summary of the two less-favoured camps, a sign the government does not want to close off any avenue which could help the economy.

The conservatives favour gradual changes which would try to avoid conflicts and harmful side-effects and would not harm what Turanov called weak and inefficient enterprises.

The radicals want to break up the centrally-controlled planned economy in a series of short, sharp shocks, cutting government investment and subsidies in an attempt to introduce a free-market system as quickly as possible.

A senior Soviet trade official said Saturday the Soviet Union aims to freeze raw material exports at 1985 levels and double exports of manufactured or pro-

# British electricity sell off likely to axe 30,000 jobs

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's plans to sell off Britain's state-owned electricity industry will lead to the loss of some 30,000 jobs, costing closures and price rises, an authoritative energy magazine has said.

The magazine Power, in Europe said a secret government memorandum in its possession showed that electricity prices would rise by a quarter and that one-third of the country's deep coal mines would close.

If genuine, the memorandum could seriously undermine privatisation plans that are already under heavy fire and, according to most opinion polls, costing Thatcher support. But the Department of Energy would not confirm its authenticity.

Opposition Labour Party energy spokesman Tony Blair de-

nounced the planned privatisation, which would follow sell-off of the gas and water industries and the telecommunications system.

"It is a truly staggering list of costs, charges and penalties to be levelled on consumers and taxpayers," he said of the leaked document. "In a rational world, this should signify the death-rattle of this deeply unpopular sale."

The sale of state-owned industries, encouraging the general population to buy shares, has been a cornerstone of Thatcher's economic philosophy. But Labour has attacked it as an expensive waste of national assets.

Beside the electricity industry, the railways are expected to be privatised over the next four years.

## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

### Turkish inflation rate soars

ANKARA (R) — Consumer prices in Turkey soared by 7.6 per cent in October, the highest monthly rise since March 1988, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency quoted the state institute of statistics as saying. Prices rose fastest in the commercial capital Istanbul, home to seven million people, where the cost of living increased by 9.4 per cent during the month. Inflation is the chief reason for a collapse in popular support for the ruling Motherland Party, now backed by only about 15 per cent of voters. It will be the first major challenge of the prime minister who succeeds Turgut Ozal, elected president by parliament Oct. 31 in a ballot boycotted by opposition parties. The inflation rate in the year to the end of October rose to 73.3 per cent from 73.1 per cent a month earlier. The rate has hovered between 62 and 76 per cent since hitting a post-1981 high of 87.5 per cent in November 1988.

### Big Spanish saving banks merge

BARCELONA (R) — Spain's biggest savings bank, Caja De Pensiones (La Caixa), and its rival Caja De Barcelona have agreed to merge and create the country's largest financial institution. The merged group will hold deposits of about 3,600 billion pesetas (\$30 billion) and have 2,000 branches, far outstriking Banco Bilbao Vizcaya, Spain's largest clearing bank. Called La Caja De Pensiones Y De Barcelona, the new bank will concentrate its business in the prosperous northeastern region of Catalonia. None of Spain's largest commercial banks is Catalan in origin. The Socialist government of Felipe Gonzalez has encouraged mergers between financial institutions to face competition in the 1992 single European market.

### Iraq penetrates more markets

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has won a contract to export electrical appliances to the Soviet Union and several Arab countries, the army newspaper Al Qadisiya has said. It quoted the director-general of a state-owned organisation also called Al Qadisiya as saying he recently agreed to supply Moscow with \$14.5 million worth of sparking plugs and transformers. He said his organisation had also won contracts to export \$5 million worth of transformers to Saudi Arabia and \$20 million worth of similar products to Egypt, Jordan, North Yemen, Libya and Oman.

### India, Morocco resolve phosphate row

RABAT (R) — India has agreed to resume purchases of phosphoric acid from Morocco next month after an Arab country mediated to resolve a dispute, the Casablanca daily Al Bayaneh has said. The paper said the deal ended a row which broke out early this year over a contract for 500,000 tonnes of acid which India refused to buy. It did not identify the Arab mediator but said it had strong ties with New Delhi. An Indian embassy spokesman could not confirm that an agreement had been finalised but said negotiations had taken place. Exports by the state-owned phosphate industry, the mainstay of Morocco's economy, rose 40 per cent last year to \$1.3 billion with India accounting for \$440 million of the total. Al Bayaneh said sales would resume Dec. 1. Economic analysts estimate Morocco lost between \$400 and \$600 million in revenue when the last contract was suspended. The loss is expected to push Morocco's 1989 current account into deficit after a surplus of \$21 million last year.

### Brazilian police arrest Nahas

SAO PAULO (R) — Financier Najib Nahas, whose financial dealings forced Brazil's stock exchanges to close last June, has been arrested after spending nearly four months on the run, police said. Nahas sparked a crisis in Brazilian stock exchanges in June when he let cheques for the equivalent of \$29 million bounce. The scandal forced authorities to close the stock and options markets and led to the resignation of central bank president Elno Carneiro, whose son ran a brokerage house involved in the affair. The Lebanese-born Nahas, who was arrested in Sao Paulo state after being sought since July, faces charges of fraud and crimes against the economy.

### Iran to pump gas through USSR

NICOSIA (R) — The Soviet Union has agreed in principle to let Iran pump natural gas through its territory for sale to Europe, Tehran radio reported. The agreement was announced after talks between a Soviet team and the Iranian finance ministry. The two sides would meet before the end of the year to work out volume of the gas to be moved and other details, the radio, monitored in Nicosia, said. Iran, which cut off natural gas exports to the Soviet Union after the 1979 Islamic revolution, has agreed to resume exports on April 1. Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh said recently Iran was negotiating with Romania, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia on gas exports through the Soviet Union.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday November 4, 1989  
Central Bank official rates

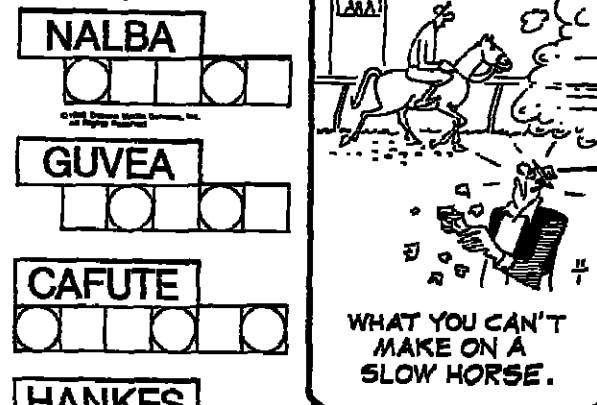
	Buy	Sell	French franc	100.7	101.7
U.S. dollar	630.0	636.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	439.5	443.9
Pound Sterling	987.9	997.8	Dutch guilder	301.9	304.9
Deutschemark	340.9	344.3	Swedish crown	97.8	98.8
Swiss franc	389.0	392.9	Italian lira (for 100)	46.4	46.9
			Belgian franc (for 100)	163.2	164.8

## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)  
Yesterday's Jumbles: COVEY MANGE KIDNAP VIRTUE  
Answer: He married her for her looks, but not this — THE KIND SHE OFTEN GAVE HIM

## Peanuts









# 9,000 East Germans reach West

## Thousands more expected to follow

MARKTREDWITZ, West Germany (R) — East Germans flooded into West Germany in record numbers Sunday, causing long traffic jams at the Czechoslovak border and prompting a frantic search for emergency housing.

A long queue of cars built up at the Czechoslovak-West German frontier in the chilly morning hours as East Germans converged on the sleepy border crossing at Schirnding, just east of Marktredwitz in Bavaria.

Border police counted about 9,000 new arrivals in the 24 hours up to 4 a.m. and expected about 3,000 more to come in special trains Sunday.

Police said the mass exodus, the biggest of four refugee waves since early September, had already filled all 6,500 beds prepared in emergency centres. "For the past few hours, we've been doing nothing but look for more space," a spokesman said.

The federal border guards and the army had already put aside another 2,000 beds and army barracks around the country were being checked for further capacity, he added.

It was not clear how many East Germans would hop into their cars and drive across Czechoslovakia once they realised they could now legally cross there into West Germany.

Torsten Steib, 21, a passenger on one of the West German "freedom trains" from Prague, said: "When people in East Germany hear the border is open, even more will come here."

A woman from Dresden who had travelled to Prague to register at Bonn's embassy — a step no longer necessary — expressed a commonly found scepticism about East Berlin's sudden liberalism.

"I heard (that the border was open), but I couldn't imagine that it was true," she said.

East Germans began crossing into West Germany Saturday by train, bus and car after Czechoslovakia, the only country for which East Germans require no visa, lifted its border controls by agreement with East Berlin.

Most had come via West Germany's embassy in Prague, which they had filled to overflowing in a bid to go to the West. A further 596 East Germans arrived over the past 24 hours from Hungary, the first country to open its borders for them.

Because they still need visas to enter Hungary, that route is now less attractive to would-be emigrants than the road through hard-line Czechoslovakia.

Steib and his fiancée Manja Kamzol, 18, had travelled from East Berlin to Prague by train Friday night, expecting to join other refugees in the West German embassy. The next day they were on their way.

"We want to live a good life now while we are young," Kamzol said. "Regardless of what happens with the reforms we are not going back now. We are staying here."

Few East Germans had anything good to say about their country's new leader, Egon Krenz, whose promises of reforms after replacing hardline leader Erich Honecker last month have failed to stop the mass flight.

"This exodus will continue as long as Krenz is in power," said Walter Kolbow, a young father from near Magdeburg, at Marktredwitz Station. "You can read (about reform) in the papers now but it's just talk and very little will come of it."

About 200 of the town's 18,000 inhabitants were at Marktredwitz Station to greet the arrivals, who automatically receive West German citizenship.

Red Cross workers handed out box lunches and baby food during an hour-long stop before the trains continued to reception centres throughout West Germany.

More than 173,000 East Germans have fled to West Germany this year, including 100,000 legal immigrants. Most of the others came through Hungary or via West German embassies in Prague and Warsaw.

U.N. seeks meeting of Nicaraguan rivals

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. secretary general has said the differences between the Nicaraguan government and the contra rebels are so great that a meeting between both sides should not be delayed, diplomats have said.

The United Nations confirmed that a meeting between the Sandinista government and the U.S.-backed rebels was called off for Monday but said it was seeking a session at a later date, a spokesman said.

According to diplomats, Javier Perez de Cuellar, briefing the Security Council late Friday, also said that if the United Nations had had its proposed peacekeeping operation in place in Central America, the situation in Nicaragua might not have deteriorated so quickly.

The secretary general has asked the council to approve a 625-person task force to control cross-border movements of arms, such as clandestine assistance to the contras inside Nicaragua and to guerrillas fighting the government of El Salvador.

The contras and the Sandinista government had been invited to meet at U.N. headquarters by the International Commission for Verification and Support, set up to help disband the contras under a Central American peace plan.

The Nicaraguan government had requested the meeting, apparently pressing ahead with a dual strategy of trying to smash the contras in the field while pursuing peace talks.

Abortion — a major issue in U.S. elections

WASHINGTON (AP) — Political contests could give the United States its first black governor and New York City its first black mayor when election polls close Tuesday.

L. Douglas Wilder is seeking the governorship of Virginia and David Dinkins is the Democratic Party's nominee for mayor of New York.

The off-year voting is also being watched for shifting sentiment on abortion and racial issues.

The heightened concern over abortion stems from a supreme court ruling last summer permitting states to impose greater restrictions on women seeking to terminate their pregnancies, and already the two major parties, Republicans and Democrats, are debating the political fallout.

Ron Brown, national chairman of the Democratic Party, said that Bush's opposition to abortion did not damage him last year.

In other balloting Tuesday, 11 candidates are vying to replace Rep. Mickey Leland of Texas, killed last summer in a plane crash in Ethiopia.

The line-up of big city elections includes Detroit, where 71-year-old Democrat Coleman Young seeks a fifth term, and Cleveland, Ohio, where Democrats George Forbes and Michael White are staging a bare-knuckled political brawl for city hall.

John C. Daniels is favoured to win office as the first black mayor in mostly white New Haven, Connecticut, while Norm Rice is out for the same honour in Seattle against Republican Norm Jewett.

Dozens of referendums dot election ballots, including in San Francisco, where voters will decide whether to spend \$115 million to replace the city's wind-swept baseball and football stadium, Candlestick Park.

In a campaign pitched to 1990 elections with 34 Senate seats, 36 governorships and 435 House seats, abortion has become a prominent issue.

"The issue was cooler before" the supreme court's ruling, Atwater said, but added: "I maintain it is not going to be a national driving issue in 1990. It's going to be an issue on a race-by-race basis."

The party also deserves criticism, he said.

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